

**RURAL DISTRICT of BUCKINGHAM**

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# **ANNUAL REPORT**

of the

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

and of the

**CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

and

**SURVEYOR**

for the Year

**1957**

### List of Parishes in the Council's Area.

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Addington	Marsh Gibbon
Adstock	Middle Claydon
Akeley	Padbury
Barton Hartshorne	Poundon
Beachampton	Preston Bissett
Biddlesden	Radclive-cum-Chackmore
Charndon	Shalstone
Chetwode	Steeple Claydon
Edgcott	Stowe
Foxcote	Thornborough
Hillesden	Thornton
Leckhampstead	Tingewick
Lillingstone Dayrell	Turweston
Lillingstone Lovell	Twyford
Luffield Abbey	Water Stratford
Maids Moreton	Westbury

**1957**

# **BUCKINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

*Chairman of Council :*

W. DURRANT, Esq.

**General Purposes Committee :**

*Chairman :*

T. S. MITCHINSON, Esq.

*Members :*

G. J. Beckett, Esq.	W. E. Good, Esq.
W. G. Beckett, Esq.	A. Hodges, Esq.
C. Bryant, Esq.	P. J. Hodges, Esq.
S. W. Chapman, Esq.	A. Powell, Esq.
S. M. Cotton, Esq.	Capt. G. Robarts (Resigned).
Mrs. M. S. Crook.	Mrs. M. M. Spiers.
J. Davies, Esq.	D. A. Stewart, Esq.
Col. R. H. Doyne.	A. J. Woods, Esq.
Hon. Mrs. M. E. Fortescue.	W. F. Wood, Esq.

T. S. Mitchinson, Esq. and W. Durrant, Esq.

*ex-officio members*

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**Public Health Staff :**

*Medical Officer of Health :*

D. H. WALDRON,

O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H., Col. I.A.M.C. (Rtd.)

(The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H. for Buckingham M.B., the Urban Districts of Bletchley, Linslade, Newport Pagnell and Wolverton, the Rural Districts of Newport Pagnell and Wing, Area Medical Officer for North Bucks and Divisional School Medical Officer for the North Bucks Division and the Buckingham and Winslow District.)

*Deputy Medical Officer of Health :*

F. SEYMORE, M.B., ch.B., D.P.H.

*Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector :*

J. C. SHARPE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

*Additional Public Health Inspector and Deputy :*

K. E. RICHARDSON, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

*Administrative Assistant :*

C. H. BRAY.

# BUCKINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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COUNCIL OFFICES,  
SCHOOL LANE,  
BUCKINGHAM.

20th May, 1958.

*To The Chairman and Members of Buckingham Rural District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1957.

The Birth Rate shows a drop from last year but is still higher than the County Rate and also the rate for England and Wales.

The Death Rate is again at a satisfactory low level and is, in fact, the lowest of the twenty Districts in Buckinghamshire. It is  $4\frac{1}{2}$  points lower than the rate for the rest of the Country. Cancer and Heart Diseases accounted for 52 of the total of 74 deaths.

The Infantile Mortality Rate shows a rise on the previous year. There were three deaths in this group, all under the age of four weeks.

I should like to record another year of happy co-operation with your Clerk, Mr. Floyd, your Surveyor and Public Health Inspector, Mr. Sharpe, and their staffs.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,  
DANIEL H. WALDRON

## SECTION A.

### Vital Statistics

			1956	1957
Area (in acres) .. . .			54,543	54,543
Population .. . .			10,350	10,380
Number of Inhabited Houses ..			2,755	2,751
Rateable Value .. . .			£80,841	£80,947
Rate per £ .. . .			16/10	18/5½
Estimated Sum represented by a 1d. Rate .. . .			£308/1/9	£297/2/8

#### Births :

Legitimate—Males ..		84	74
,, Females ..		76	68
Illegitimate—Males ..		4	5
,, Females ..		3	3
Birth rate per 1,000 population		20.1	17.9
Do. (Bucks)		16.3	16.7
Do. (England & Wales)		15.7	16.1
Deaths—Males ..		62	43
,, Females ..		28	31
Death rate per 1,000 population		8.7	7.1
Do. (Bucks)		9.9	9.7
Do. (England & Wales)		11.7	11.5
Maternal Mortality Rate ..		Nil	Nil
Do. (England & Wales)		0.56	0.47

#### Infantile Mortality :

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births ..		12	20
Ditto for Bucks ..		17.1	21.6
Ditto for England & Wales ..		23.8	23.0
Still Births .. . .		2	1

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH :	1956			1957		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Influenza ... ... ...	0	0	0	0	1	1
Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	2	0	2	0	0	0
Other Tuberculosis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cancer ... ... ...	12	8	20	9	6	15
Diabetes ... ... ...	1	0	1	1	0	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage ...	3	3	6	8	5	13
Heart Disease ... ... ...	21	7	28	10	10	20
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	3	0	3	2	2	4
Bronchitis ... ... ...	4	0	4	2	1	3
Pneumonia ... ... ...	3	1	4	2	0	2
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Digestive Diseases ... ... ...	1	0	1	0	0	0
Nephritis ... ... ...	1	0	1	1	0	1
Pregnancy, Child Birth, Abortion ... ... ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital Causes ... ... ...	0	0	0	2	0	2
Accidents ... ... ...	4	1	5	1	2	3
All other Causes ... ... ...	7	8	15	5	4	9
<b>TOTALS</b> ... ... ...	<b>62</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>74</b>

## SECTION B.

### General Provision of Health Services

#### 1. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Specimens for bacteriological investigation were sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Oxford, as in previous years. Specimens for qualitative and quantitative analysis had to be sent to London.

#### 2. AMBULANCE SERVICES.

This service, administered by the County Health Department, is now radio controlled from Aylesbury, with a sub-station in Bletchley to cover the North Bucks Area. The service deals with all types of cases, general, accident and infectious disease.

#### 3. NURSING FACILITIES.

The District Nurses in the Buckingham Rural Area carried out their duties in their usual conscientious manner.

#### 4. CLINICS.

(a) *Child Welfare Centres.* There are five static Welfare Centres serving the District, located as follows :

Buckingham (twice monthly)	Twyford (once monthly)
Steeple Claydon (do.)	Winslow (twice monthly)
Thornborough (once monthly)	

The work of the Mobile Welfare Unit continued during the year and the following villages were visited monthly :—

Akeley.	Charndon.	Maids Moreton.
Adstock.	Dadford.	Padbury.
Beachampton.	Leckhampstead.	Preston Bissett.
Calvert.	Lillingstone Dayrell.	Tingewick.
Chackmore.		

The District Nurse and Health Visitor attended each Session, and a Medical Officer attended once monthly. Immunization against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough was carried out at all centres. During the year attendances by children totalled 2640.

Once again I should like to pay tribute to the good work done at these Clinics by the members of the Ladies' Voluntary Committees.

(b) *Chest Clinic*.—The Clinic holds weekly sessions and is administered jointly by the Regional Hospital Board and the County Health Department. A chest physician attends each session. It is equipped with X-ray plant and is doing excellent work.

(c) *Orthopaedic Clinic*.—This clinic is organized by the Wingfield-Morris Hospital, Oxford. It holds two sessions a month at the Town Hall, Buckingham, and an Orthopaedic Surgeon attends alternate months.

## 5. HOSPITALS.

The following Hospitals served the area during the year :—

Buckingham Hospital.  
Aylesbury Group.  
Oxford Group.  
Northampton Group.  
Creaton Sanatorium.  
Peppard Sanatorium.

## 6. DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

The service instituted under the National Health Service is administered on behalf of the County Council by the Women's Voluntary Service.

During the year 104 cases were assisted.

## 7. INEDUCABLE CHILDREN.

In a letter from the County Medical Officer of Health on the above subject, he states :—

“ The Group Training Centre for Mentally Handicapped Persons has continued in the Old Poor Law

“ Institution at Buckingham. The Centre is held on  
“ Mondays and Fridays from 9.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.  
“ and 9.30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursdays. At the end  
“ of the year there were thirteen on the roll. The  
“ mid-day meal is taken at the Centre as part of the  
“ training and children living more than  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles  
“ from the Centre are transported. Regular medical  
“ inspections are undertaken so that any physical  
“ defects can be attended to. One mentally handi-  
“ capped child, who is not suitable to attend the  
“ Group, receives home tuition, and the occupa-  
“ tional therapists of the County Health Department  
“ visit a number of cases in their homes. The  
“ average attendance was 9.97 for the 115 days that  
“ the Centre was opened.

“ Mentally handicapped persons are visited by  
“ mental health workers of the County Health  
“ Department, so that advice and assistance can be  
“ given to them and their relatives who are caring  
“ for them.”

# ANNUAL REPORT OF SURVEYOR AND CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

## SECTION C.

### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

#### 1. WATER SUPPLY.

The Bucks Water Board, of which your Council is a constituent authority, continues to supply every parish with water.

The Foxcote Treatment Works have been in operation throughout the year in conjunction with the new storage reservoir and the average daily quantity of water supplied from these works during 1957 was 1,325,000 gallons. This was an increase of 160,000 gallons per day over the figure for 1956.

The Treatment Works were completed in 1953 and came into operation on the 1st October and by the end of that year the demand on the works was running at nearly 750,000 gallons per day. The increase in the daily quantity of water supplied has risen from 750,000 gallons in 1953 to 1,325,000 gallons in 1957, i.e. 575,000 gallons per day. The works are designed for a maximum average daily output of 2,000,000 gallons.

The summer of 1957 was generally wet and in consequence the flow in the Ouse was well maintained and no difficulty was experienced in maintaining the water level in the Foxcote Reservoir.

During the year the Board laid new mains as follows :

Adstock	...	...	85 yards (Housing)
Thornborough	...		42 yards (Housing)
			127 yards

## Main Supply.

- (a) Quantity—Satisfactory.
- (b) Quality—Satisfactory.
- (c) Samples taken from the supply (which fell into Class I of the Ministry of Health's grading) ... ... ... ... ... 5
- (d) Estimated number of premises on supply ... 2499
- (e) Estimated number of population served ... 9624

## Other Sources.

- (a) Samples taken ... ... ... ... ... 6
- (b) Samples found upon analysis to be unfit ... 4  
(in these cases informal action was taken with the owners of the property concerned to provide a wholesome supply).

## Summary of Results of Water Samples taken from other than Main Supply for Bacteriological Examination during the past Ten Years.

Year	No. of Samples taken and examined	Result	
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
1948	19	7	12
1949	6	4	2
1950	6	3	3
1951	12	2	10
1952	4	2	2
1953	7	3	4
1954	12	4	8
1955	12	1	11
1956	4	3	1
1957	6	2	4
Totals	88	31	57
		64.77% unsatisfactory.	

## 2. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The streams and water courses in a number of villages are still polluted in varying degrees by drainage

effluent and in dry weather a number of them consist almost entirely of sewage, and whilst every effort with the available resources is made to keep them cleaned out, the pollution increases from year to year.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Schemes will obviate much of the pollution in the receiving streams but early abatement of the nuisances appears to be unlikely because of economic difficulties and Government restrictions on capital expenditure.

### 3. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government, following an inspection and report by its Medical Adviser, agreed to the Council proceeding with the Adstock and Padbury Schemes. The Akeley Scheme, however, was postponed for the time being, it being considered that this Scheme was not quite in the same urgent category as that for Adstock and Padbury.

The Council accordingly advertised for tenders and fifteen were received. The one submitted by Messrs. Brooks & Johnson, Northampton, was subsequently accepted and approved by the Minister in the sum of £63,299 11s. 2d.

Work commenced in July and good progress was made by the end of the year, approximately 30% of the Scheme having been completed.

The Scheme comprises of the following :—

3,257 yards (approximate) sewers in Padbury village.

1,307 yards (approximate) sewers in Adstock village.

1,623 yards (approximate) cast iron pumping main.

Pumping Station at Adstock.

Sewage Disposal Works at Padbury consisting of :—

2 sedimentation tanks.

1 percolating filter.

1 humus tank.

Sludge well and pump house.

6 sludge drying beds.

It is anticipated that the works will be completed during the early part of 1959.

During the year private sewer replacements were carried out at Marsh Gibbon. The Council agreed to make a contribution towards the cost of the works and upon satisfactory completion declared that the following sewers be vested in the Council under the provisions of Section 17 of The Public Health Act, 1936, viz. :—

755 feet sewer in Clements Lane.

920 feet sewer in Scotts Close.

Private sewerage and sewage work was also carried out at Middle Claydon and the Council again agreed to make a contribution towards the cost of the works and for the sewers and disposal plant to be declared vested in them.

During the year the Council agreed to make a contribution towards the cost of construction of a small sewage disposal plant to sewer properties at The Hamlet, Hillesden, and also to accept liability for the future maintenance of the plant.

The Council's policy of giving financial assistance for the installation of disposal plants in the smaller villages and hamlets will be much appreciated and it is hoped that this will continue, for apart from the financial saving, it improves the sanitary conditions of the district as a whole and enables the smaller villages to enjoy the same facilities as the larger ones, at a much earlier date than would be otherwise possible.

Small schemes of sewage disposal for Hillesden Church End and Water Stratford were submitted to the Ministry for approval towards the end of the year and it is hoped that these schemes will be allowed to proceed early in 1958.

The following villages are now provided with modern Sewage Disposal Works :—

Chackmore. Completed in 1939.

Steeple Claydon. Completed in 1939.

Tingewick.	Completed during the war by War Department and taken over by the Council in 1949. Extended in 1956.
Thornborough.	Completed in 1953.
Marsh Gibbon.	Completed in 1956.

These works continued to function satisfactorily during the year and maintenance of the sewers and disposal works sites was again carried out in a satisfactory manner.

#### 4. WATER CLOSETS.

The question of the conversion to the water drainage system of various Council House properties at present served with bucket lavatories, was considered by the Council during the year and draft schemes were prepared for properties at Grendon Road, Edgcott, School Hill, Charndon, and Preston Bissett. It was decided to defer action for the time being in view of the present economic difficulties and high bank rates.

Owners of private properties, however, have executed work of this nature to various properties during the year.

#### 5. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The three weekly kerbside collection of household refuse throughout the District was continued during the year and a satisfactory service was maintained.

Some two years ago the Council discussed the question of the desirability of a fortnightly collection but reluctantly decided, on grounds of economy, that a more frequent collection was not possible. Where refuse has, of necessity, to be stored for a period of three weeks, especially in the summer time, and often in overflowing bins and other miscellaneous receptacles, a condition is created which, without doubt, is a menace to the health of the public. In these enlightened days of atomic energy, Zeta, Sputniks and the like, surely the postponement of a fortnightly collection cannot continue indefinitely.

The schedule of collection which is now in operation, is as follows :—

## SCHEDULE

### Week 1

- Tuesday*— Padbury, Adstock.  
*Wednesday*— Thornborough, Thornton, Beachampton.  
*Thursday*— Maids Moreton, Foxcote, Leckhampstead.  
*Friday*— Lillingstone Lovell, Lillingstone Dayrell, Addington, Middle Claydon.

### Week 2

- Tuesday*— Steeple Claydon.  
*Wednesday*— Edgcott, Marsh Gibbon.  
*Thursday*— Poundon, Twyford, Charndon.  
*Friday*— Hillesden, Preston Bissett, Chetwode, Barton Hartshorne.

### Week 3

- Tuesday*— Tingewick.  
*Wednesday*— Radclive-cum-Chackmore, Shalstone, Biddlesden, Water Stratford.  
*Thursday*— Turweston, Westbury.  
*Friday*— Akeley, Stowe.

The new Paxit vehicle has given very satisfactory service and with the village to tip journeys considerably reduced and the change over from petrol to diesel fuel, a saving of approximately £130 on fuel alone was made.

The old Karrier vehicle continued to give satisfactory service for occasional use on refuse collection, tip maintenance and for general sewerage and estate maintenance work.

The disused claypit at Calvert Crossroads was used as a tip for refuse until the end of August, when a new tip was opened, some half mile nearer to Buckingham and much further away from habitation. Every effort was made during the year to keep the tips in a presentable condition, with the aid of a bulldozer and manual labour. Regular inspection and treatment for rodents was given and during the summer months

frequent spraying with insecticides was carried out to prevent fly nuisance.

The cleansing of cesspools and septic tanks continues to be carried out by contract at four monthly intervals and has been executed in a satisfactory manner.

The total income for the year from the sale of waste paper and scrap iron was £83 4s. 0d.

## 6. SCHOOLS.

Of the sixteen village schools in the district, five are still without modern sanitation but it is hoped, however, that on the completion of the Padbury and Adstock Sewerage Scheme and the installation of a sewage disposal plant at Church End, Hillesden, three of these schools will have flush sanitation.

## 7. SWIMMING BATHS.

There are no public swimming baths in the Rural District but rural residents in the summertime, as well as school children, used the open air one in the Borough of Buckingham.

## 8. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No infestation was reported during the year.

## 9. RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

Work during the year by the Rodent Operative has again been satisfactory and was carried out without the necessity of invoking statutory action.

### Work of Inspection and Control.

(a) Number of Complaints received	...	...	132
(b) Number of Properties inspected and visits carried out	...	...	2500
(c) Number of properties found infested with rats	...	...	195
(d) Number of Properties found infested with mice	...	...	64

## 10. GENERAL SURVEY OF WORK.

This being my eleventh Annual Report to the Council it therefore would not come amiss to reflect for a moment on the progress that has been made in the field of general sanitation and housing during that period.

New housing has, of necessity, taken pride of place and the Council can be justifiably proud—without being complacent—of the progress made. Since the early days after the War, the design and internal layout of a new house has changed, the superficial area being smaller, this being due chiefly to economic reasons. The houses today are more compact and every effort is made with the advent of a new programme to make further improvements. The plumbing system today is of the single stack system, whereby all fittings discharge into a common stack pipe, which is most economical. The cold water main feed is taken up on an internal wall, thereby reducing risk of freezing. Polythene tube is also used for the cold supply.

There is still plenty of room for improvement, however, and to name just three such improvements which I would like to see incorporated :—

1. The taking out of the roof space of all plumbing in order to reduce risk of freezing and the inconvenience and cost of maintenance.
2. The installation of thermal insulation to the roof space to reduce heating costs and to save fuel.
3. The fitting of grates for the burning of smokeless fuel for the purpose of the prevention of air pollution.

There appears to be a general need in almost every village for old people's bungalows and in my view more of these should be built. We are told that in the future there will be a preponderance of elderly people in the make up of the population of the country and if this is so, for economic reasons it will be desirable to

provide smaller and more compact units of accommodation. Today we find a number of houses not being used to full capacity, e.g., one person living in a three-bedroomed house and whilst I am aware of the difficulties in the transferring of tenants, possibly in the future, a scheme will be devised that will mitigate some of these difficulties and at the same time allow for greater efficiency and economy.

In the sewerage and sewage disposal field, good progress has been made. The villages of Marsh Gibbon, Thornborough and Tingewick all have main sewerage whilst that for Adstock and Padbury is at present under construction. There is, however, a long way to go in this respect for the ultimate goal is a flush lavatory and fixed bath for every house in the district and the prevention of the pollution in our ditches, streams and water courses.

The Council are aware of the high cost of the installation of modern sewerage and sewage disposal and I am of the opinion that in the country as a whole there is room for specialized thought and experiment on the design of small works in order to reduce cost and to provide for greater efficiency. Consultation with your consultant engineers has taken place from time to time with a view to decreasing the manual work of maintenance and to provide for mechanisation.

Whilst progress has been made in the collection of house refuse since 1947, when only tins and bottles were collected at three monthly intervals, and the service given today includes the collecting of all household refuse at three weekly intervals by hygienic methods, it is my view that there is plenty of scope for improvement in this service and this would be welcomed by ratepayers.

Apart from a more frequent collection, the condition and variety of some of the receptacles put out by the householders leave much to be desired. There is an urgent need for a scheme whereby the Council provide and supply a hygienic container for all houses.

In the general field of public health work, changes have been made with regard to the inspection, control and marketing of milk and it is pleasing to note today that this district is included in an area where all milk that is sold has to be of a designated variety and sold in capped containers, thus minimising the risk of contamination which was so apparent when milk was served to the customer from an open can or bucket. The elimination of the tubercle bacillus from our dairy herds is progressing very rapidly and I think it is true to say that the time is not so far distant when tuberculosis in cattle will almost be eradicated.

Since my first Annual Report, the general work of the department has somewhat changed, insomuch as the inspection of cowsheds is no longer a local authority matter and building licensing has been discontinued. New or amending legislation has, however, been instituted to provide for the improvement of houses by aid of grant, the recommencing of slum clearance action, the hygienic handling of food and the inspection and maintenance of food premises, and the de-control of centralized slaughtering and the re-opening of private slaughterhouses.

It will be of interest to note that during the ten years—January 1948 to December 1957—there were 800 new drains installed and examined in the district and when one compares this figure with the total number of houses in the district, of 2,751, an idea will be gained of the progress that has been made. There are still, however, plenty of insanitary drains in the district.

A brief summary of other inspections and visits made during 1957 is appended below :—

Total Number of visits to Premises	...	...	2150
Complaints received	...	...	21
Informal Notices served	...	...	87
Statutory Notices served	...	...	9

## FACTORIES ACTS 1937—1948.

The table below shews the position during 1957, as far as work places and factories are concerned and the inspections made for purposes as to health and sanitation :—

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Written Notices	Occupier prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities.	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
2. Factories not included in 1 in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	17	23	Nil	Nil
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ...	18	23	—	—

Only one outworker was notified in accordance with Section 110 of Part VIII of the 1937 Act and after inspection this person was found to be engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

During the year, a certificate for the provision of adequate means of escape in case of fire was issued

respecting the following Factory :—

Starline Varnish & Enamel Co., Westbury.

## TENTS, VANS AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

All the sites were inspected during the year and found to be maintained in a satisfactory condition :—

Number licensed ...	...	...	...	...	3
Number of inspections ...	...	...	...	...	16
Nuisances found to exist	...	...	...	...	3

## DRAINAGE

Steady progress has been made towards modernization of drainage for existing house property. Owners of property where main sewerage has been provided have, in the past, come forward very readily to connect their properties to the sewer and the Council's policy in providing a free lateral drain acts as an incentive to ensure that all road re-instatement is carried out at the same time.

Number of New drains examined	...	...	100
Number of visits for that purpose	...	...	161
Number of W.C.'s installed	...	...	73
Number of new soil and ventilating pipes installed	...	...	46

## PETROLEUM (REGULATIONS) ACTS 1928—1936.

A Model Code of Principles of Construction for the Storage of Petroleum Spirit was issued by the Home Office during the year and I am sure that it will act as a useful guide for all new installations as well as the maintenance of existing ones.

The Code suggests that licensing authorities should require all underground tanks to be re-tested after they have been installed for twenty years and at regular intervals thereafter and it is hoped that the Council will adopt this principle when considering the renewal of licences for 1958. There are 14 such tanks in the district.

Number of Petroleum Licences, December 1957 :—

500 gallons or less	...	...	...	...	29
Over 500 gallons but not more than 1,000 gallons	...	...	...	...	9
Over 1,000 gallons	...	...	...	...	4
Total licences issued	...	...	...	...	42
One licence to store 110 lb. of Carbide of Calcium was issued during the year.					
Number of inspections or tests carried out	...				17
One licence to store 50 gallons cellulose solution was issued during the year.					

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Enquiries in cases of infectious disease	...	...	9
Number of visits re disinfection	...	...	Nil

HOUSING AND BUILDING BYELAWS.

Number of Plans deposited for new houses	...	15
Number of Plans deposited for other works	...	118
Visits in connection with Building Byelaws	...	390

OTHER CLASSIFIED VISITS.

Housing visits under the Housing Acts	...	508
Housing visits under the Public Health Acts	...	58
Visits re water supply	...	33
Visits re drainage and sewerage	...	394
Visits re refuse collection	...	18
Visits re refuse disposal	...	58
Visits in connection with sewage disposal	...	233
Schools	...	23
General nuisances	...	7
Overcrowding	...	Nil
Accumulation of refuse	...	Nil
Foul ditches and ponds	...	Nil
Visits to Shops and Licensed Premises	...	325
Visits to Canteens	...	13
Unclassified	...	60
Stables and Piggeries	...	4

## SECTION D.

### Housing

The total number of Council houses erected post-War is now 390. The rate of progress during the year increased over that of the previous year. The figures for the two years being 26 and 17 respectively. By the end of the year 12 houses were under construction as compared with 10 the previous year.

#### Erection of Post War Council Houses up to December 1957

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Bungalows</i>	<i>Total Completed</i>	<i>Under Construction</i>
Adstock ... ... ...	16	—	16	—
Akeley ... ... ...	16	—	16	—
Beachampton ... ... ...	10	—	10	—
Biddlesden ... ... ...	4	—	4	—
Charndon ... ... ...	6	—	6	—
Chetwode ... ... ...	4	—	4	—
Edgcott ... ... ...	8	—	8	—
Hillesden ... ... ...	6	—	6	—
Lillingstone Lovell ...	4	—	4	—
Maids Moreton ...	15	—	15	—
Marsh Gibbon ...	24	—	24	6
Middle Claydon ...	4	—	4	—
Padbury ... ... ...	30	—	30	—
Poundon ... ... ...	3	—	3	—
Preston Bissett ...	12	—	12	—
Radclive-cum-Chackmore	4	—	4	—
Steeple Claydon...	52	39	91	—
Stowe ... ... ...	2	—	2	—
Thornborough ...	20	—	20	2
Thornton ... ... ...	4	—	4	—
Tingewick ... ... ...	43	13	56	—
Turweston ... ... ...	6	—	6	—
Twyford ... ... ...	28	—	28	—
Water Stratford	—	—	—	4
Westbury ... ... ...	17	—	17	—
<b>Total ... ...</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>12</b>

Total number of houses erected and occupied during the year 1957 ...	...	...	...	...	26
Total number of houses built and owned by the Authority ...	...	...	...	...	689
Pre-War—299. Post-War—390.					

**Erection of Post War Houses by Private Enterprise up to  
December 1957**

Parish	Houses	Bungalows	Total Completed	Under Construction
Akeley	1	3	4	—
Adstock	2	1	3	—
Barton Hartshorne	—	—	—	1
Beachampton	4	—	4	—
Biddesden	5	—	5	1
Charndon	2	10	12	1
Chetwode	—	—	—	1
Edgcott	1	—	1	—
Hillesden	2	—	2	—
Leckhampstead	1	—	1	—
Lillingstone Lovell	—	1	1	—
Maids Moreton	5	1	6	1
Marsh Gibbon	5	4	9	1
Padbury	6	—	6	2
Preston Bissett	—	—	—	1
Radclive-cum-Chackmore	3	—	3	—
Steeple Claydon	3	4	7	1
Stowe	19	—	19	1
Thornborough	3	3	6	1
Thornton	—	1	1	—
Tingewick	1	3	4	—
Turweston	2	1	3	—
Twyford	2	—	2	—
Water Stratford	1	1	2	—
Westbury	6	2	8	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>13</b>

Total number of houses erected and occupied  
during the year 1957 ...

10

Of the thirteen premises under construction at the end of the year, it is interesting to note that ten of these are bungalows.

Progress has been maintained regarding inspection of properties listed for action in the Council's Slum Clearance Programme.

On the question of the formulation of the next house-building programme, the Council decided to defer consideration for a period of twelve months or until the bank rate of 7 per cent is substantially reduced.

The effects of this decision will not be apparent for some months to come, but in any event it will mean action being deferred on the Slum Clearance Programme.

A summary of the action taken with regard to Slum Clearance is shewn in the following table :—

# SLUM CLEARANCE — Five Year Programme

## SUMMARY OF ACTION TAKEN FROM OCTOBER 1955 TO 31ST DECEMBER 1957

Parish	Action Taken						Action to be Taken—Remaining
	Number of Unfit Houses in Slum Clearance Area Made	Demolition Order Made	Closing Order Made	Undertaking not to relet for human habitation	Undertaking to make fit for Human Habitation	Deleted from Programme	
Adstock ...	8	1				1	Nil
Barton Hartshorne	1					1	Nil
Charndon ...	6						6
Hillesden ...	4						Nil
Maids Moreton ...	11						8
Marsh Gibbon ...	6						2*
Padbury ...	8						1
Preston Bissett ...	14						14
Steeple Claydon ...	1						Nil
Thornborough ...	9						3
Tingewick ...	8						2
Turweston ...	3						3
Twyford ...	12	7	5			1	Nil
Water Stratford ...	5	2					Nil
TOTALS ...	96	7	32	3	4	5	39

Other Dwellings Not included in above Programme but dealt with during Year.

Turweston ... — — —

Note.—\* Action to be deferred during present tenant's lifetime.

**Houses included in Clearance Orders confirmed by the Minister Pre-War but not yet demolished.**

<i>Parish</i>	<i>No. of Houses</i>	<i>No. still occupied</i>	<i>No. of persons in occupation</i>
Akeley ...	6	2	3
Beachampton	3	—	—
Stowe ...	7	7	17
Tingewick ...	2	2	2

The licences issued under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954 to occupy the above premises expired on the 30th August 1957 and the owners and occupiers were subsequently notified to vacate the premises by 31st December 1958.

**INSPECTION AND ACTION DURING THE YEAR.**

Number of Houses found to be in a state unfit for habitation	...	...	...	...	...	26
Number of Houses in respect of which an undertaking was signed to render the premises fit for habitation	...	...	...	...	...	3
Number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was signed that the premises owned would not be re-let for habitation	...	...	Nil			
Number of houses found to be unfit and upon which a Demolition order was made	...	...			16	
Number of houses found to be unfit and upon which a Closing Order was made	...	...			2	
Number of houses found to be unfit and upon which action was deferred	...	...			5	
Number of houses found to be unfit and upon which a Clearance Order was made	...	...			Nil	

**OVERCROWDING.**

No cases of overcrowding were investigated during the year.

## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Fourteen applications for grants were made, of which thirteen received approval and the maximum grant of fifty per cent was recommended in each case.

The total grant aid approved during the year amounted to £7,180 0s. 0d., an average of approximately £342 0s. 0d. per house.

### Applications made for Grant during 1957

Parish	Number of Houses to be improved		
	Approved by Council	To be considered	Withdrawn
Adstock ... ...	1		
Chetwode ... ...	3		
Hillesden ... ...	2	2	
Lillingstone Lovell ...	1		
Marsh Gibbon ... ...	4		
Steeple Claydon ...	7		
Thornborough ...	2		
Turweston ... ...	1		
Total ... ...	21	2	

Number of properties in respect of which grants  
were approved by the Council during 1957 ... 21

Amount of grant aid approved by the Council  
during 1957 ... ... ... ... £7,180 0. 0

Total number of properties in respect of which  
grants were approved by the Council to 31st  
December, 1957 ... ... ... ... 91

Total amount of grant aid approved by the  
Council, to 31st December, 1957 £25,709 18s. 3d.

## SECTION E.

### Inspection and Supervision of Food

#### MILK.

The sampling of milk which is undertaken by the Food and Drugs Authority, brought to light the existence of brucella abortus on six farms and the existence of tuberculosis in two dairy herds. As far as brucella abortus is concerned, the milk from the infected farms was diverted for pasteurisation and the veterinary service called in for further investigations. The herds affected with tuberculosis were also investigated and as a result of further veterinary inspections, sampling and the slaughter of animals, the herds were subsequently pronounced clear.

#### Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949

Number of Dairies registered	...	...	...	...	I
Number of Distributors on Register	...	...	...	...	9
Inspections	...	...	...	...	17

The following supplementary licences were issued during the year under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1949 authorising the use of the Special Designation :—

“Tuberculin Tested”	...	...	...	...	8
“Pasteurised”	...	...	...	...	6
“Sterilized”	...	...	...	...	I

#### ICE CREAM.

Total number of retailers on register	...	...	...	...	31
New applications received and Premises registered	...	...	...	...	3
Inspections	...	...	...	...	43

Samples of ice cream have been taken from premises serving ice cream to the public. These samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Oxford, for bacteriological examination by the methylene blue reduction test and were graded as follows :—

Provisional Grade I	...	...	...	...	8
Do.	II	...	...	...	I
Do.	III	...	...	...	Nil
Do.	IV	...	...	...	Nil

This test affords a simple means for the grading of the bacteriological cleanliness of ice cream.

#### MEAT AND SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

I am pleased again to report that during the year 100% meat inspection was carried out. Of the 5 premises licensed as private slaughterhouses, only 3 have been in regular use during the year but even so the inspection of meat has taken up much time and travelling, quite often special journeys having to be made for this purpose.

The quality of the home-killed meat was very good indeed.

Carcasses and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or part :

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
Number killed ...	123	9	4	958	214	—
Number inspected	123	9	4	958	214	—
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</i>						
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	2	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	53	5	—	55	18	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	43.09	55.55	—	5.95	8.41	—
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>						
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3	3	—	—	17	—
Percentage of the inspected affected with tuberculosis	2.44	33.33	—	—	7.94	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

## Parts or Organs condemned are classified as follows :

	<i>Beef</i>	<i>Pork</i>	<i>Mutton</i>	<i>Total</i>
Whole Carcase ...	—	—	2	2
Plucks ...	—	—	5	5
Livers ...	56	10	38	104
Heads and Tongues ...	5	15	1	21
Hearts ...	1	2	1	4
Lungs ...	4	7	10	21
Part carcase ...	3	2	3	8
Miscellaneous ...	4	5	1	10

Approximate total weight  $13\frac{1}{4}$  cwts.

Visits to slaughterhouses ...	...	...	...	232
Visits to Butchers' shops ...	...	...	...	234
Number of licensed slaughtermen	...	...	...	16

## FOOD PREMISES.

A steady improvement is noted with regard to catering and food retailing establishments and it is hoped that this will continue. The majority of premises have been brought up to the required standard as laid down by The Food Hygiene Regulations with the exception of one or two school premises but in these cases plans have been prepared and the necessary work should be undertaken in the next few months.

The premises coming within the purview of the Regulations are summarised as follows :—

School Canteens ...	...	...	...	...	16
Private School Kitchens ...	...	...	...	...	5
Factory Canteens ...	...	...	...	...	3
Hospital Kitchens ...	...	...	...	...	3
Licensed Clubs ...	...	...	...	...	4
Licensed Public Houses ...	...	...	...	...	40
Mobile Fish and Chip Vans	...	...	...	...	2
Shops—General Stores	...	...	...	...	40
Butchers ...	...	...	...	...	7
Bakers ...	...	...	...	...	3
Total ...	...	...	...	...	123

Food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 are classified as follows :—

Ice Cream (registered for the storage and sale) ...	31
Mobile Vans (for frying of fish and chips) ...	2
Manufacture of Sausages ... ... ...	7

## KNACKERS YARDS

There is one licensed knackers yard in the district and regular inspections of the premises have been undertaken.

## OTHER FOODS.

Other foods condemned during the year include :—

20 lb. Luncheon Meat, which upon examination was found to be unfit for human consumption by reason of metallic staining and odour.

## DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD.

All butchers' meat condemned is stained with napthalene green dye before being disposed of either by way of the knackers merchant or by means of burial.

Tinned food is disposed of by burial.

## FOOD POISONING.

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

## BAKEHOUSES

Number on register	...	...	...	...	3
Number of visits	...	...	...	...	6
Contravention of Regulations	...	...	...	...	2

During the year one of the village bakehouses closed down which now leaves only 2 actively engaged in baking.

The general tendency over the last few years is for the small village bakehouses to be discontinued in the face of labour difficulties and competition by the multiple firms.

JOHN C. SHARPE,

*Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector.*

## SECTION F.

### Prevalence of, and Control Over, Infectious and Other Diseases

#### GENERAL

Apart from a small rise in the incidence of measles and whooping cough in June, July and August, it was a good year regarding infectious disease.

#### NOTIFICATIONS

Disease	Male	Female	Total
Measles ...	21	20	41
Scarlet Fever ...	1	1	2
Whooping Cough	12	15	27
Pneumonia ...	4	3	7
Dysentery ...	2	1	3
Erysipelas ...	1	—	1
Total ...	41	40	81

#### CANCER.

There were 14 deaths from this disease during the year.

#### TUBERCULOSIS.

Two cases were notified during the year. There were no deaths.

DANIEL H. WALDRON,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

